

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) Protective structure for vehicles, characterised in that it comprises a substantially linear front cross member (17A) having two lateral ends comprising a unitary fillable internal chamber, wherein said front cross member is connected to lateral side members (22), and ~~featuring~~ having at least one underlying laterally-placed first absorber element positioned near each lateral end of said front cross member (17A), said first absorber ^{element} being connected externally after the cross member (17A) on the bumper side of the vehicle, and having an additional absorber system interposed between said laterally-placed ^{first} absorber elements.
2. (Original) Protective structure for vehicles as in claim 1, characterised in that, inside said cross member (17A), at least one second absorber element (25) is present, which increasesing the collapsing force which will cause the collapse of the cross member and ~~therefore~~ the energy absorbed by said cross member and, simultaneously, limitsing the overall dimensions of the entire structure.
- B² 3. (Amended) Protective structure for vehicles as in claim 1, characterised in that said cross member (17A) has a substantially straight geometrical structure which is fitted with curved bumpers (26) conforming in shape to said underlying laterally-placed first absorber elements (16) and said additional absorber system wherein said absorber elements and said additional absorber system are interposed between said bumper and said cross member.
4. (Previously Amended) Protective structure for vehicles as in claim 2, characterised in that said underlying laterally-placed first absorber element (16) and said second absorber element (25) are made of materials ~~deformation~~ which deform under pressures of 5-30 N/mm² which correspond to a crushing of 50%.
5. (Previously Amended) Protective structure for vehicles as in claim 2, characterised in that said first absorber element (16) and said second absorber element (25) comprise absorbing materials selected from the group consisting of extruded thermoplastic honeycomb, honeycomb

made of aluminium, polyurethane foam, foamed polypropylene, rigid polyurethane, semi-rigid polyurethane and extruded polyurethane.

6. (Amended) Protective structure for vehicles as in claim 1, characterised in that said cross member (17A) is made of metal or plastic ~~and is flat or shaped~~, produced from an extruded linear profile.

7. (Amended) Protective structure for vehicles as in claim 1, characterised in that said cross member (17A) is flat and is made of metal or plastic and is flat or shaped, produced by ~~moulding~~ molding and welding.

8. (New) Protective structure for vehicles, characterised in that it comprises a shaped front cross member (17A) made of metal or plastic ~~with~~ having two lateral ends comprising a unitary fillable internal chamber, wherein said front cross member is connected to lateral side members (22), and ~~featuring~~ having at least one underlying laterally-placed first absorber element positioned near ~~each~~ the lateral end of said front cross member (17A), said first absorbers ~~being~~ connected externally after the cross member (17A) on the bumper side of the vehicle, and an additional absorber system interposed between said laterally-placed absorber elements.

9. (New) Protective structure for vehicles as in claim 8 characterized in that said cross member is produced from an extruded linear profile.

10. (New) Protective structure for vehicles as in claim 8 characterized in that said cross member is produced by molding and welding.